

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63115

Q. David Bowers
Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

February 5, 1999

Re: Child's 1804 Dollar

Dear Dave:

From your January 26, 1999 letter you are apparently involved with the Muscat 1804 Dollar belonging to the Childs' family and I am naturally glad to be of help to you in your further research on the matter.

A problem is how to spell "Said Said bin Sultan" (as used in our book) or as I subsequently learned "Sayy'd Sa'id bin Sultan". I suggest checking with Aramco Magazine. His majesty was sultan (political leader) from 1809 to 1856 as well as Imaum (religious leader) and well respected.


There are newspaper articles on the return of "The Peacock" and I enclose one. The book on the expedition is a wonderful story even though Roberts died en route.

Aramco Magazine had a fine article on the visit of an Omani ship to New York in the 1840's which came with goods to trade and caused a great commotion. The boat was falling apart and had to be repaired. The sailors spoke only arabic. The captain was a drunk and so an American had to take the ship back to Oman as they had no backup. The Sultan also sent a pair of lions to the U.S. consul in Tangier (see p. 65 of Fantastic).

I hope you agree with my newer conclusions on the production of the 1804 dollar, particularly sections 3 and 16 of A Restated Opinion on the Origin of the 1804 Dollar in ANS COAC (October 30, 1993), pp. 111-122.

Please feel free to ask for any further data you may wish from Ken or me. As you may realize this subject has been a steady stimulant in my life.

Cordially,



Eric P. Newman



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

February 12, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newnan
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

I hope this letter finds all well with you and your extended family.

I have decided to write a "book"—or at least a small book—on the situation involving the 1804 silver dollar presentations at Muscat and Siam. I may have mentioned some of this to you before, but here goes anyway:

Edmund Roberts was a native of Portsmouth, NH. He was related by marriage to Levi Woodbury, who became the Secretary of the Navy under Andrew Jackson, and later became Secretary of the Treasury (during the important era in which Gobrecht created the Liberty Seated design, the branch mints were being built, and steam coinage was being introduced, among other things). The New Hampshire State Historical Society has large numbers of personal papers of Roberts, which I have had a researcher go through for two days, and I will be going down there with her again sometime in the next week weeks, as soon as I have assimilated all of the information on hand. In addition, other material is at other societies and libraries in New Hampshire, some of which seems not to have been seen by anyone connected with numismatics. However, I have not found anything particularly new or startling about the coins themselves, apart from what is in the book that you and Ken did.

The *Peacock* took Edmund Roberts to the Indian Ocean and to Siam on its voyage of 1832-1834. This is memorialized in a book by Roberts, edited by his son-in-law, Amasa J. Parker, and published in 1837. His second voyage was also aboard the *Peacock* 1835-1836, the one in which he died (on June 12, 1836, in Macau). The purpose of the second voyage, as you know, was to actually deliver the treaties that had been arranged with Muscat and Siam. By a fortunate circumstance I have in my position on loan the original log of the *Peacock* for this voyage,

which gives day-by-day occurrences as to ships met at sea, arrivals and departures in ports, and so forth. Interestingly, the journal is done on so-called "sea time" by which the day begins at noon and ends at noon, causing some confusion. However, by looking at the log and studying things in context, I have been able to figure out what *calendar day* certain things happened. There is a min-problem and somewhat of a mystery, inasmuch as a 1953 book published by Dawson in California excerpted some comments concerning the 1835-1836 voyage, and gave credit for the log of *Peacock* belonging to the Department of Naval Records in Washington. I have asked a researcher (Henry Hettger) to check into this, as it may well be the case that there is more than one log. The log that I have treats mainly navigation, the various sails employed on the masts, and so on. There is very little of a personal nature, such as details of events ashore. Also, the log that I have seems to have been made up in large sections using information from another source—either from another log or from notes. This is evident by examining the darkness of the ink, the layout of certain sections, etc. Also, in some instances, an entry refers to something that happened later, such as, for example, a notation on the 16th referring to something that took place and noting that it was finalized on the 18th, although the notation appears in its entirety in the space for the 16th. All of this detective work is, of course, a lot of fun.

The 1835-1836 trip was delineated in a book by W.S.W. Ruschenberger, M.D., which gives a lot of color and flavor to what happened—and is a nice balance to the log.

A third voyage to Muscat and Siam took place on the *Columbia* after Roberts died, and this was recounted in a two-volume book set.

What I hope to do is to devote a chapter in the book to an overview of the first voyage, another chapter to an overview of the third voyage, and then a very detailed chapter together with log entries, day-by-day anecdotes, etc., for the second voyage, 1835-1836, in which coins were presented.

The Childs specimen of the 1804 dollar, attributed to Muscat will be auctioned at the end of August. The auction catalogue will stand on its own and have a description much as the Eliasberg Collection catalogue did. However, I hope to also have the book in print by that time—so that someone who wants to become absorbed in the day-to-day adventures of life at sea (of course, there were also some very boring days), who wants to have a "you are there" experience with the

Mr. Eric P. Newman
February 12, 1999
Page 3

Sultan of Muscat and the King of Siam, can enjoy the book. The book will probably be about 10-20% numismatic and the balance historical.

The drift of the present letter is this: if you would be interested in reviewing the manuscript as it takes form, perhaps some of your thoughts and ideas could be added to what I have done. Right now I am still putting in print all of the material on hand, including the three books just mentioned, material from the various New Hampshire sources, and so on. This will probably take the next several weeks, as there is so much of it.

Best personal regards,



Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

cc: Ken Bressett

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Q. David Bowers
Bowers & Merena Galleries
P.O. Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03984

February 18, 1999

Dear Dave:

Concerning Edmund Roberts and the delivery of the presentation coin sets to Muscat and Siam your letter of February 12, 1999 was written before you received my letter on the subject dated February 5, 1999.

Naturally I will be glad to digest your draft of what you write if I don't contract dysentery while doing so.

My best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized flourish.

Eric P. Newman



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

February 19, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter and also for the very nice book on scales. I am a bit behind in my correspondence, but I wanted to acknowledge what you had sent. Concerning the *U.S.S. Peacock*, I have Roberts' book (published after his death) and also the Ruschenberger book. I also have on loan the original log of the *Peacock* for its second voyage to Muscat and Siam, 1835-1837. What I am doing at the moment is transcribing the log day-by-day—an immense task which is being facilitated by a couple other staffers here—and then adding to it, appropriate for the related days, letters written to or written by Edmund Roberts (many of which are preserved in the New Hampshire Historical Society), dated and attributable comments by Ruschenberger (which covers the second voyage as you know), scattered articles from *Niles' Register* (I have a complete run of this publication, but as you may know it only contains scattered mentions of the *Peacock*, and these picked up from other papers). I haven't double checked the Norfolk article on the *Peacock* that you have sent, as you did not attribute it as to source—but it looks like something from *Nile's Register*. My set of this book is at home, with little yellow post notes sticking out of many issues from 1832 through 1838—I haven't transcribed them yet.

Also as you may know, Edmund Roberts was treated royally in Muscat. In Siam he had a very difficult time. A latter study on international trade—I don't have the citation here as I write this letter—reveals that for 20 years after these treaties were signed, a fair amount of trade was conducted with Muscat, but very little at all with Siam.

Incidentally, I was at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem last weekend, and I came back with a big pile (\$400 worth) of books, including a really excellent

Mr. Eric P. Newman
February 19, 1999
Page 2

study of American and other trade with the Port of Canton, with a lot of information about Oliphant & Co., with which Roberts traded.

As this project progresses, if you would like to see a printout of what I have done, I would be delighted to send it. I am sort of hoping (informal English here!) that you and Ken might combine to write some sort of introduction or preface to the book. The emphasis will be on the making and early presentation of the 1804 silver dollars, together with some surrounding material about the Mint, the numismatic community at the time, etc. Anyway if you think this is a possibility and you and Ken would agree, I'll count on this and not make any other plans.

I expect the book will be the best part of a couple hundred pages in length—it keeps growing!

Concerning the scale book, this is excellent, and I have spent about an hour looking through it. You and George are to be congratulated on doing a very nice job. Although I know the printing is limited, if you have any available for resale at 50% discount from the list price, delivered here, this present letter will stand as an order for 50 copies. We will then list it for sale in our catalogues.

I'll send a copy of this letter to John Babalis, so that if you send the books in question, you can invoice them to his attention, and he will know the arrangements I have made; and to Ken Bressett for reasons mentioned above.

Eric, again, congratulations on a very nice new book.

Sincerely,



Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

cc: Ken Bressett
John Babalis
Chris Karstedt

Mr. Kenneth E. Bressett
March 15, 1999
Page 2

about Woodbury, then the foreword would be on hand. Of course, we can be in touch before then to see how things progress.

Although this may be general knowledge, I did come across in the State Department papers quite a bit of information in the "Secret Mission" file concerning Texas. An emissary was being sent to Mexico to see if Texas could be bought for \$4 million or, if necessary, the agent was authorized to offer \$5 million. I suppose that the history of Texas has been so widely and intensely researched that this is common knowledge, but at least I didn't know of it before. Also, there is a lot of information about Joel Poinsett, who was important in the National Museum and, if I remember correctly, in the beginning years of the Smithsonian. Anyway, this is an update. I will not presume to send you or Eric a new manuscript until more is added. Right now it is probably 50% larger than the last time you saw it, but I still have quite a bit of information yet to enter.

Sincerely,

Q. David Bowers
QDB/rsm

cc: Eric P. Newman

To: Kenneth Bressett

March 22, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

To comply with Dave Bowers' request that we jointly write a foreword to his 1804 dollar book I hope you will prepare a draft from the point of view of both of us.

We can say that none of the fundamental conclusions seem to be challenged any more. We can say we are glad to be around almost four decades after writing our book and glad to be asked to write the foreword. We can say we still share information and findings with each other on a continual basis. We dare not warn the reader that the book will contain some irrelevant but interesting material on other than numismatic subjects. We could mention that we cited about 250 references and there are now over 1000 references. One amusing thing to be mentioned could be that the 1804 U.S. dollar was illustrated in Hungary in 1832 before there was any such dollar in existence and before it was even thought of. See my article in *The Numismatist* in October 1990. I believe it may be the only coin known which was illustrated before it was conceived. That was a reproduction before there was an "original". The error was caused because the illustrator assumed that if one denomination of a U.S. coin dated 1804 was made than a dollar dated 1804 was made.

Happy writing.

To: Kenneth Bressett

March 22, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

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Happy writing.



Eric FYL

KENNETH BRESSETT
POST OFFICE BOX 60145
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80960

March 23, 1999

Mr. Q. David Bowers
Bowers and Merena Galleries
P.O. Box 1224
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire 03894

Dear Dave,

Thanks for your letter and update on the 1804 dollar book project. I hope that you do finish the book prior to the sale of the Childs collection. It very well might excite some additional interest in the dollar and his other coins.

Do you have a date and definite place set for the sale? I want to make reservations as early as possible for myself and son Philip.

I read the entire manuscript that you sent earlier, and found it very enlightening and entertaining. Perhaps I have a special affinity for such things, but I think others will enjoy it just as much. I'll admit that it was kind of slow going during most of the sea voyages, but there was enough unknown material there to make it worthwhile reading. Lots of things that I did not know about ships and the sea. The glimpses of the King and the Sultan were most rewarding.

By the way, if you can reproduce the portrait of the Sultan mentioned on page 11, it would make the reading seem much more "personal." It might also be fun to show some of the coins that were being used in Muscat c. 1835.

There is an error in the dates on page 24, and I think also on page 32. And on the same page, why were there 25 coins in the packages instead of 22? I only found a couple of other typos; I am sure you will catch them all later.

Have you found any connection between the Sultan's trading and Liverpool where the 1804 set ended up? It would be nice to learn how the set got there.

Eric and I will work towards having a foreword for you by the first of May.

Peace,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: Q. David Bowers

March 29, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

You indicate you have not heard from me on the 1804 book introduction. You wrote that you expected me to participate in you didn't hear from me otherwise. So I was silent (for a change). Ken and I will gladly introduce you. Just imagine our book was published 37 years ago and we still are pals. My wife thought up the word "Fantastic" to glamourize the title and then I realized it was a spectacular double entendre.

I hope you checked Aramco Magazine for Oman history.



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

"Your friends in the rare coin business"

March 29, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Another letter from me.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter that I had hoped to publish in the *American Journal of Numismatics*. I need no reply from you on this, as I know you are a friend of Ted Buttrey's. However, I thought you should be kept up to speed on my thoughts.

Incidentally, I have no clue as to what Michael Hodder (who works with Stack's, competitor, as you know) may or may not be doing in his presentation, and I have no clue as to what Stack's may or may not be doing on their own with regard to their feelings. However, I do believe it was very unfair for Mr. Buttrey to impugn the integrity of items in the Clifford Collection without ever having seen them, written to me about them, or in any other way having studied them—at least not to my knowledge.

I am not a litigious person, and this too will pass, but I do feel that the Society stumbled, and quite badly, on the handling of this situation. I know in our business if we make a mistake—and certainly we have made our share over the years—we apologize to the people involved and try to make it better. Anyway, as I mentioned, I do not expect and would in fact prefer not even to receive a reply on this, but did want to let you know my thoughts—as I admire what you do, have been a fan of yours for a long time, and also have been a friend. It could be that you already know about my feelings, if the Society has copied you on what I have sent. Otherwise, the enclosures can be read, thrown away, or whatever. I just wanted to eliminate any thought of an undercurrent from this end.

*cc: 1804 dollar
portion on
p. 2.*

Mr. Eric P. Newman
March 29, 1999
Page 2

Changing the subject completely, I will be sending you and Ken a printout of the 1804 dollar book draft. The draft, while no means complete, will probably give you enough to sample the flavor of what is happening and to write a foreword, if both of you would still like to do this.

All the best from here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'Q' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

cc: Ken Bressett

Enclosure of my "position" on the ANS "matter."



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

April 8, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecel Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

1804
dollar

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your nice call yesterday. It is always a pleasure to talk with you. You did mention that "we both know more than we are saying about the Buttrey situation," or something like this. Let me say that I know nothing about it other than what I have said. Early in the situation I was contacted by Harvey Stack, but declined to pursue the matter through attorneys, although I did copy him on some letters that I wrote to the Society. What stack's has done since then with their attorneys or with Mike Hodder I have no idea, I have received a copy of no correspondence or rebuttal, or anything else. Nor have I corresponded with Professor Buttrey. I have corresponded with Les Elam at the American Numismatic Society and others at the Society, and I assume that if any of these letters are of interest to you, the Society can provide them (of which I hereby give them permission to do if they haven't done this already). I just wanted to let you know that there was no other "agenda" from my part as to the Buttrey situation. I still think it unfortunate and handled badly by the ANS, but that is my opinion, and I certainly respect the right of others to disagree. Anyway, I did want to mention this. At the same time, I do have occasional business relationships with Stack's as they buy in our sales, we buy from them, and so on. We probably will continue to have such relations in the future. However, in no way have I ever been, nor do I ever anticipate being involved in their management, their likes or dislikes, etc. Eric, in the words of one of our past public officials, "Make this perfectly clear."

It is very exciting that you handled an 1804 silver dollar, and I look forward to receiving the details. I could send you a printout at this time, which has a few updates since the last one. However, rather than overwhelm you with sheets of paper I simply will wait until I receive your letter, make the changes suggested,

Mr. Eric P. Newman
April 8, 1999
Page 2

and then send both you and Ken a revision. Then, before the book goes to the printer, I'll send you another printout.

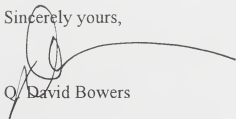
I was thinking of making the book a smaller size than the normal 8-1/2 by 11 inches that I usually employ. If so, I can readily see that the book will be more than 400 pages in size. My thinking at present is that a smaller page width might showcase a bit better such things as the ship's log, the biographical and pedigree information appendices I and II.

If in your archives you have any interesting pictures that you think would relate to the story, I would be grateful for the opportunity to borrow them. I am not referring to 1804 dollar specimens, but to historical pictures. However, if possible, I would like to be able to use the Class II dollar photo in your book, either by copying it out of the book (which we can probably do electronically) or by borrowing a glossy photograph.

I realize this letter will be crossing one of yours, but I thought I would send it along its way in any event.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Q. David Bowers'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

QDB/rsm

G R E A T A M E R I C A N S A L E S

PO BOX 1073

CONGRESS AZ 85332

520-427-3567

April 12, 1999

Beth Deisher, Editor
Coin World
PO Box 150
Sidney, OH 45365-0151

Dear Beth,

A few comments on the terms "Proof", "Specimen Strike", and "Presentation Piece".

Fifty years ago there were no descriptive terms such as "Specimen Strike" and "Presentation Piece" in American numismatics, at least none have been seen in any numismatic literature prior to 1950 that I'm aware of. These two commonly used phrases were popularized in auction catalogues, for the most part, by Walter Breen beginning in the mid-1950's. There have been several theories put forth by various researchers since then to qualify these terms. As of today, there is not a single piece of hard evidence or documentation, official or otherwise, which support these descriptive labels regarding early U.S. coinage. Yet we now have, for the very first time in American numismatic history, the use of all three of these theoretical and unproven descriptors in a single lot description about one early American coin in Stack's' John Whitney Walter catalogue of May 4, 1999, Lot #1763: "The Finest Known 1796 Dime.....Specimen Strike. Gem Brilliant Specimen Proof. The Finest Known JR.1 and the Finest Known 1796 Dime of any variety.....Undoubtedly struck for presentation." All of this is just in the heading.

Previously, this exact coin was described as "*undoubtedly struck for presentation*" in 1957, and "*no doubt this coin was a presentation specimen*" in 1985. Both times it was catalogued by Stack's. As numismatists we should doubt anyone who states there is "no doubt" about something concerning early American numismatics; and the term "Finest Known" is used to an unbearable degree throughout the commercial sector, even if it's the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 18th, etc.

The description in the present catalogue describes the "*mirror flash*" (die polish) along with a "*touch of softness in the curls over the ear*". Further description about the coin's reverse includes "*full breast feathers on the eagle and only its left leg feathers are soft*". This is accurate cataloguing for this impressive coin.

However, then we see the various descriptive terms and theories creeping in. 1796 was the first year of the dime denomination. The cataloguer suggests "*perhaps that was the reason why a small handful of 1796 Dimes was struck with a sharper blow on planchets that had been cut from polished strip.*" Let's stop and analyze this first theory for a moment.

Even though the strike is not full (obvious by examination of the plate and catalogue description), the theory of being "struck with a sharper blow" just because it was the first year of issue is presented in the catalogue without any qualification whatsoever. Secondly, the dies were the only part that was polished in the minting process, not the planchet material. There has been no verification discovered regarding early U.S. coinage that the workers at the Mint ever

polished any of the metal planchets or planchet strips prior to striking, regardless of what's been written in the past.

The cataloguer then offers "*another reason why a handful of presentation specimen strike 1796 coins were made.*" There's no documentation whatsoever to suggest that any of the United States 1796 coins were struck as "presentation specimen strikes". The only presentation pieces made at the U.S. Mint were in the form of medals, not coins. If we are going to continue seeing the use of these confusing descriptive terms over and over, why doesn't someone, or some numismatic organization, come up with contemporary, factual evidence and create acceptable guidelines outlining the qualifiers for such a grade or condition?

The catalogue description continues with a second theory about "*presentation coins were made....when a new president was elected or inaugurated.*" As this second unconfirmed and unproven theory is being presented, we find the following: "*Unfortunately, the Mint left no records behind that state that presentation coins were made for incoming presidents, vice-presidents, and their staffs.*" Doesn't this refute the theory? Especially when the Mint Officers left behind detailed records showing such things as how much liquor was purchased for the workers; and why do we now see "vice-presidents and their staffs" added to an undocumented theory? Why stop there? Let's go all the way and add the press agents and aides. Of course, there were no such positions in 1796; why there wasn't even a White House or a Washington, D.C. Since this particular sale deals only with 1796 dated American coinage, we see this theory repeated several times in other lot descriptions. Shouldn't lot descriptions describe the item being sold, along with accurate background information, rather than perpetrating and perpetuating theories?

But, the description continues with the following: "*....numismatic evidence (whatever that is!) is clear that at least some of the early (1796-1821) specimen strikes known must have been made for that very purpose.*" This sentence is a completely unprovable conjecture. The lack of any real evidence would tend to suggest otherwise, and the unnamed cataloguer probably knew it as the next paragraph begins: "*Whatever the real reason may have been, the fact remains that there exists a handful of early U.S. coins that are so far superior to anything else that they must have been made for some purpose other than ordinary circulation.*" This statement is also pure speculation. The word "fact" is an inappropriate choice, since all the theories previously presented are not backed by any facts, and this writer basically can't find anything "far superior" about many of these so-called pieces, except maybe the brilliance of the proof-like polish. It should be remembered that the coiners (Henry Voigt and Adam Eckfeldt) often polished the dies. They did their job quite well under difficult conditions, and should be receiving the credit for these pieces.

The cataloguer once again back-pedals in the very next sentence. "*We do not know exactly what that purpose may have been because the Mint has left us no documents that mention why it struck such Specimen coins.*" For the sake of accuracy, it should be noted that the first United States Mint never actually struck any coins. The people who worked there did. The Mint is just a production facility -- only a building. Here again we see an assumption by the cataloguer that the coiners at the Mint actually did strike "Specimen coins", even though he states there is no documentation to prove this. Have we all been brainwashed over the years?

The "specimen" and "presentation coin" idea is all based on a belief in unproven theories. I've read the letters in which the interpretation of the word "specimen" has meant something special regarding early American coinage. One of these is reprinted in Breen's

Encyclopedia of United States Proof Coins on pgs. 22-23. In no instance has there been any special connotation made by the different writers. There is no direct reference indicating any early U.S. coin was ever specially struck for any event or occasion other than for examination purposes by Treasury officials and/or Congress.

I, like other numismatists, believe the word "specimen" in these letters only means example(s). Since the word specimen has several meanings depending on context, the various letters cited do not qualify as official, documented proof that there was any special striking of early (meaning prior to the introduction of the close collar coinage, which began in 1828) United States coinage. The reader is referred to the October 20, 1992, Floyd Starr catalogue, p. 42 by Stack's, for a dissertation on the relaxed standards for a so-called "Specimen Proof" which is a term used in the May 4, 1999, catalogue.

The people who worked at the first United States Mint had the capability of producing near perfect coins, but that was not their charge, nor was it their intention. They were there to coin money for depositors, which included a substantial amount of banking commerce, and for circulation purposes. Some of the first examples struck from new dies with their proof-like polish, were naturally struck a little bit better than others, thus accounting in part for the various confusing descriptors that are the subject of this commentary.

However, from the complete lack of any conclusive evidence, an objective viewpoint would suggest they are nothing more than **proof-like uncirculated first strikes** being promoted for commercial gain. The commercially oriented grading services have adopted these terms also, even though they, too, offer no qualifiers. After 50 years of this, I, for one, would like to see someone produce some form of conclusive evidence or official documentation to validate these widely used claims of "Proof", "Specimen Strike", and "Presentation Piece" regarding early American coinage. If precise and conclusive evidence is not forthcoming soon, the practice of using these spurious terms should cease!

This commentary is not intended as an assault on the Stack's firm or any other numismatic entity, or individual selling coins, medals, tokens, and/or paper. It is offered to address speculative theories and the recognition thereof, before they become "presumed facts". The reality surrounding early American numismatics is that there are very few facts available. There's no need to perpetuate unproven mis-information for future generations. Unfortunately, there is plenty of this already.

Finally, I would be more than willing, if asked, to participate on a committee addressing the possible need for a different numismatic classification (other than Proof) and terminology about these early Federal coins of quality. Some acceptable guidelines, definitions, qualifiers, and hopefully, conclusions need to be reached concerning these interesting pieces. All of us involved with American numismatics would definitely benefit from such an effort.



Karl Moulton

To: Q. David Bowers

April 13, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

As to the Adams example of the Class III 1804 Dollar I find that I examined it in New York in 1942 in the hands of the executors of the Estate of E. H. R. Green and I made a notation of it in my listing. B.G. Johnson and I purchased all of the U.S. dollars in the Green Estate on Nov. 11, 1942 but turned down the 1804 "second restrike" dollar because the price of \$250 was too high. We did buy the "restrikes" of 1801, 1802 and 1803 but I had no interest in keeping any of them.

I received a letter dated March 17, 1943 from Chase National Bank in which the 1804 dollar is specifically mentioned. (copy enclosed)

In our book certain dates of ownership of that 1804 seem to need correction. Who is A.J. Allen? (Is it Jane Allen of the Brand family?) You can straighten out the matter I hope.

*Some
adjustment*



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

April 16, 1999

Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your wonderful letters. I think I will simply let the Buttrey affair rest in place.

Concerning the 1804 silver dollar book I am not sure what the finished title will be, but I did insert "DATED" in the working title.

Please send me as soon as you can your own listing for ownership of the 1804 silver dollar through B.G. Johnson, as well as the proper date insertion and any other information.

Ken Bressett sent me the foreword, for which I am grateful. I will add this to the manuscript, and in due course will send both you and Ken a revised printout incorporating this. In the meantime, several of our staffers have been poking around in the New Hampshire Historical Society Library, and quite a few interesting things have turned up concerning Roberts—nothing numismatic, but a lot about his life.

All the best.

Sincerely yours

Q. David Bowers
QDB/kjl

GREAT AMERICAN SALES

PO BOX 1073

CONGRESS AZ 85332

520-427-3567

April 19, 1999

Dave Bowers
PO Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Hello, Dave,

Please excuse the delay in getting this order out to you, it will be mailed tomorrow; have been somewhat busy with the new list. Just received the Bass catalogue and it looks great. Glad to see Saul Teichman's name in the pattern section. Best of luck with the sale.

In your letter you mention a "group" of Birch and Leeds catalogues. There was only one of each on the list and have sent them along.

I wish to thank you for taking the time to go over the 1827/3/2 quarter draft. Your comments and suggestions will be incorporated in various forms with acknowledgement to you as the source. We may not agree on a few points; but this is good, the reader will have various viewpoints to digest.

Your "drafty draft" about Edmund Roberts and the 1804 dollars is quite comprehensive at this point. You've done a tremendous job of compiling the previous writings surrounding the 1804 dollars and their owners. I've read through the draft rather quickly and jotted down a few comments and observations, which you may or may not use. The intention was not to sound negative -- only accurate.

The Peacock log is truly a find! "Secret Agent" Roberts was one of the earliest unsung heroes in helping to make America a world power. He would have been buried at Arlington National Cemetery if it had been in existence.

One story you may consider adding to your book is the untold one about Dr. Samuel Moore getting replaced or being asked to resign immediately after these sets left the Mint. I haven't yet been able to locate any documents regarding the changeover in Mint Directors in July of 1835 and Kneass' stroke in August of the same year (I believe they exist in Records Group 104 in the Archives). There was probably a great deal of argument and confrontation surrounding the creation of the 1804 dated dollars.

The sets were illegal because of the 1804 dollar. Did Eckfeldt have anything to do with getting Moore out of the Mint? Are there any letters from Eckfeldt to Treasury officials concerning this? Perhaps you will be the first to shed some light on the consequences immediately following delivery of the sets to Roberts. There may be something in the Library of Congress; they have many original congressional documents scanned on the internet, but only up to 1805 at this point.

For whatever it's worth, here's my brief synopsis of what may have happened. Dr. Moore insisted on creating the 1804 dated dollars for the two presentation sets; Adam Eckfeldt didn't go along with the proposal. That's why it took nearly six months from the time the sets were ordered to finish them, as just making the dies wouldn't have taken that long. Eckfeldt knew there had been no 1804 dated dollars made in 1804 because he was assistant coiner. Moore eventually won out; but Eckfeldt had seniority, plus he had integrity (which cannot be said of Moore at that time). Eckfeldt may have written to Treasury officials and requested Moore be replaced because of his illegal action in creating the 1804 dollar (the first clear violation in a long line). He wanted to alleviate a possible scandal before the deed was made public knowledge, which would have created a negative impact regarding the Mint. Eckfeldt may have had good reason to do this to ensure the Congressional approbation for the new 2nd Mint, which was completed in 1833.

Dave, with your resources you can probably uncover a good deal of information regarding this situation. Dr. Moore created the first 1804 dollars; it was not listed as part of the order from the State Department. That is why I call the 1804 dollar situation a fiasco. The sets that Roberts delivered were, as you say, a success in helping secure trade agreements; but the actions of Moore were inappropriate and illegal. I believe that's why he lost his job.

As you read through some of my comments you will see other things, such as the proof label regarding the King of Siam "Proof" set. I'm just a voice in the wilderness concerning early proof designations, so please don't get upset with my observations and comments.

For your information, attached after page 57 of your draft there is a commentary about early "Proof", "Specimen Strikes", and "Presentation Pieces" that I sent to Beth Deisher last week after reviewing the John Whitney Walter catalogue. It's a subject that would benefit from some definitions one way or the other.

That's it for now. Thanks for the order. I wish you great success with the Bass coins and the Child's 1804 Dollar.

Best regards,



Karl Moulton



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

April 21, 1999

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of April 13th. The A. J. Allen notation came out of that great reference book, *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*. Other than that I have no information on hand. I doubt if it would have been Jane Allen of the Brand Family, as, so far as I know, Jane was interested in selling as many coins as possible, and was never a buyer for anything.

Today I have sent you and Ken the latest printout of the manuscript. This is simply for you to riffle through, as a fair amount of work remains to be done, and I have not yet proof read one word or copy-edited it.

Reflecting upon the very nice evening staged in your honor by the American Numismatic Society and the interesting antidotes you gave, you might give some thought to spending a few hours with a dictating machines and recording some of your reminiscences. Much of what you could say about B.G. Johnson, transactions you have had with others, research methods, the American Numismatic Society, etc., could probably not be duplicated by others.

I also thought of you when one of our staffers said that a relative had been married in a very nice botanical garden or something similar in Pittsburgh, and there was a display of live butterflies as part of the attraction.

All good wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Q. David Bowers

QDB/kjl

April 23, 1999

Karl Moulton

Dear Karl,

I went over your suggestions, which were SUPERB. I send herewith the main chapters to which your suggestions were relevant.

Concerning Mickley, although this was not the focus of anything at this end, I suggest that Woodward's comments have the most reliability (recall that Mickley selected W.E.W. to buy his coins, jumping over the Philadelphians and also Cogan, who at that time was in NYC); Cogan is semi-reliable, but was moved by his ego and felt that he should have an answer for everything, whether or not he had factual info; and W.E. Dubois who probably said what he knew about Mickley (but was dishonest in other Mint matters).

Karl, any other suggestions, etc. would be welcome.

Thanks again. And, hi to Jenny.

DAVE

Edmund Roberts and the Rare Silver Dollars Dated 1804

Coinage of the 1804 Dollar • The Philadelphia Mint • Chief Engraver William Kneass • Chief Engraver Christian Gobrecht • Numismatics in America in the 1830s • Portsmouth, NH, in the early 19th century • The West Indies and other trade • The seven Roberts girls and their love and affection • The adventures of Edmund Roberts and the two diplomatic missions of the 1830s • Secretary of the Treasury Levi Woodbury • Voyage of the *U.S.S. Peacock* 1832-1834 • Voyage of the *U.S.S. Peacock* 1835-1837 • Voyage of the *U.S.S. Columbia* 1837-1838 • The Sultan of Muscat • The King of Siam • The 1804 Dollar in later years • Registry of known 1804 dollars • Biographies and anecdotes relating to owners and chroniclers of 1804 dollars

A Numismatic Exploration into American History

Primarily Based upon Contemporary Sources

by

Q. David Bowers

FOREWORD

by

Kenneth E. Bressett and Eric P. Newman

Back of title page:

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Q. David Bowers, with Raymond N. Merena, is an owner of Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., and has been in the rare coin business since he was a teenager in 1953. The author is a recipient of the Pennsylvania State University College of Business Administration's Alumni Achievement Award (1976), has served as president of the American Numismatic Association (1983-1985) and president of the Professional Numismatists Guild (1977-1979), is a recipient of the highest honor bestowed by the ANA (the Farran Zerbe Award), was the first ANA member to be named Numismatist of the Year (1995), has been inducted into the Numismatic Hall of Fame (at ANA Headquarters in Colorado Springs), is a recipient of the highest honor given by the Professional Numismatists Guild (The Founders' Award), and has received more "Book of the Year Award" and "Best Columnist" honors given by the Numismatic Literary Guild than has any other writer. He is the author of over 40 books, hundreds of auction and other catalogues, and several thousand articles including columns in *Coin World* and *The Numismatist*.

Dave enjoys buying, selling, studying, and writing about coins. Seemingly, the more arcane the avenue of numismatic inquiry, the more he enjoys it! His other interests include American history, financial and monetary history, books, music, natural history, and art.

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G R E A T A M E R I C A N S A L E S

PO BOX 1073

CONGRESS AZ 85332

520-427-3567

April 27, 1999

Dave Bowers
PO Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Hello, Dave,

Just received your draft and revisions and very quickly glanced through the changes. It's looking great! Thank you for being so receptive to my input.

I've got a show in Phoenix this weekend and will go through things next week. There are probably a few additional comments I can provide.

Regarding Adam Eckfeldt and his involvement with the 1804 dated dollars...If you don't wish to mention anything due to lack of documentation at this point, that's fine with me. I have had a thought or two about writing a biography on him for some time now; I'll be able to include this episode in his life after doing some vigorous research in Philadelphia. It won't be done anytime soon, though.

That's all for now. Keep the fingers typing!

Best wishes,



Karl Moulton

KM:jvm



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

May 3, 1999

Mr. Karl Moulton
Great American Sales
PO Box 1073
Congress, AZ 85332

Dear Karl:

Thank you for your note. Concerning numismatic research in general, I think too much has been done in the past in the way of suppositions. My own preference is not to make positive statements, unless these can be proved, but to quote others as to what they said—and then perhaps add my comments. Thus, we probably will never *really* know what Mickley did or did not do in 1827, so the best that can be done is to quote what others have said. At the same time, I suppose there is quite a bit of Mint information that has not been checked. Also, I suspect that there is a tremendous amount of Mint information that is in early Philadelphia newspapers. I know that in doing other projects—including the Edmund Roberts project now in your hands—newspapers have provided much information that is not readily available elsewhere. This is simply because most researchers take the easy way and look at *books*. Looking through a year's worth of microfilms for even a weekly paper can take several hours or more. Anyway, there is probably a great deal of information that can be learned.

I am very excited about the prospect of the 1824 Washington-Lafayette medalet, and I congratulate you for calling this to my attention. I had seen this notation many times before in the Stewart book, but had never really absorbed it!!! Incidentally, if you ever have any chance to see any back-up records, I would be very interested in any more you could provide. Lafayette was in America for parts of 1824 and 1825, as you know. The counterstamps may have been from dies made at the Mint—now I think this is likely based upon what you have said—but whether the coins were counterstamped at the Mint, I don't know. Certainly, coins other than current issues were used, including Spanish-American silver.

As a fantasy idea, I can't help but think that there might have been a scenario in which someone took the dies and traveled along with Lafayette, and struck souvenirs on the spot—just as someone might make rolled-out Lincoln cents today. I do have

Mr. Karl Moulton
Great American Sales
May 3, 1999
Page 2

documentation that in 1832 Joseph Conrardt caused to have struck medals from a press that traveled through Philadelphia on a float during the February 22 parade honoring President George Washington. The dies for the Washington-Lafayette piece are so small that little force would have been required to have struck the pieces. Thus, a portable apparatus could have been used, possibly even something in the ancient coin style—two dies hinged. Anyway, this is something for your research. I may use this for a future article in the *Rare Coin Review* to see if anyone else can dig up anything. I have quite a bit of information on Lafayette's visit—in fact an entire shelf full of information—but I have found nothing on how these coins were made or by whom.

Karl, thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

May 4, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your note. Rather than have you completely drown in the bilge, I won't send you anymore printout for a while! Now, does the term "bilge" refer to a normal nautical proceeding, or does it have something to do with an informal review of the text?

During the past week I have had a delightful time at the New Hampshire Historical Society (Concord) and at the Portsmouth Athenæum. Both have marvelous archives of interesting "stuff"—much of which does not seem to have been seen by modern researchers, at least not obviously so.

I will go over the suggestions in your letter.

I do not keep copies of the printouts I send you, and each time I add or subtract something, the page numbers change. Thus, while I can find something such as the 1841 letter, it is a bit more difficult to find a substitution of "a" for "that." Thus, in the future it might be a good idea to give me a sentence before or after such a correction so I can find it.

I am headed for New York City, will be there through Sunday, and then in Dallas much of next week. I'll have my notebook computer with me, and with it I will be digesting quite a bit of information from the archives just mentioned.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,



Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

GREAT AMERICAN SALES

PO BOX 1073

CONGRESS AZ 85332

520-427-3567

May 6, 1999

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Hello, Eric,

It's been a while since my last letter; I trust you are doing well. The reason I'm writing has to do with a situation concerning the 1804 dollars that were struck circa 1834/5. (By the way, do you know in what month they were actually struck?)

Having read Dave Bowers' draft, along with your book and COAC articles, I'd like to ask your opinion on something I feel is somewhat relevant and, from what I can find, completely overlooked (see enclosures).

Adam Eckfeldt was the Assistant Coiner in 1804. He was physically there in the coining area and was directly involved with the minting of coins at the time. We find him Chief Coiner 30 years later when the presentation sets are ordered in November 1834. He would have had direct knowledge whether or not 1804 dated dollars were ever struck in 1804. He was 25 years old in 1804 and probably had a good memory of events in that time frame.

Did he challenge Dr. Moore on the creation of 1804 dollar dies? Is that why it took nearly six months to complete and deliver the sets the State Department requested? Did Eckfeldt have something to do with getting Moore replaced just six weeks after the sets were delivered to Roberts?

As you can see, this situation requires some fresh consideration. I wrote to Dave about it, but he wasn't interested in presenting anything (due to the lack of documentation, I suppose). I've enclosed some recent copies of my correspondence for your information.

If I'm "out in left field" on this, and you feel it's not important, please let me know. I haven't checked the archives, but perhaps some undiscovered documentation exists surrounding these events during the spring/summer of 1835. Next year I plan on doing a good deal of research about Eckfeldt and the first U.S. Mint before the ANA show in Philadelphia; it will be my first trip to the archives.

Eric, I'd appreciate your thoughts on this situation regarding Eckfeldt. It was appropriate for Dave to ask you and Ken to write the foreword for his book. I admire your conviction and resolve in dealing with the nonsense of others concerning the 1804 dated dollars.

I'll send along a final copy of the 1827/3/2 quarter draft for your comments sometime this summer. It will take that long to get things put together as I've got a two week business trip planned the end of this month, and a buy or bid sale planned for June.

Best wishes,



Karl Moulton

KM:jvm

To: Karl Moulton
P.O. Box 1073
Congress, AZ 85332

May 11, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

Thank you for keeping me up to date on your activities. As to your May 6, 1999 letter about the 1804 dollar. I will try to answer your questions.

There is no exact record as to when the 1804 presentation coins were struck, but two were first ordered and then two more. How much time between orders and completion can be only a month or two at most but I do not know why this is of major importance. Tell me why? Perhaps they were all made at one time when sailing time was planned for spring.

Adam Eckfeldt would not have remembered in 1834 what dates were on coins struck over 30 years before hand. Nobody cared about dates. He probably used the records and picked the last date the records said both 1804 dollars and 1804 eagles had been issued. He would not make an 1805 dollar and an 1804 eagle for a set as that was too obvious.

He could not find dies for either 1804 but he or someone else did find the punches to make new dies. He knew he was doing something a little wrong but thought it was unimportant. He covered it up by his illustration in his 1842 publication, using the records as his justification. I have no reason to believe the production of 1804 pieces had anything to do with Moore's replacement. No one objected or even commented on the matter.

In my last COAC article I tried to show it was too much trouble to make an 1834 dollar or 1834 eagle and it would open a can of worms if they did. The new mint was completed before the problem arose.

Dave seems to hesitate to say anything which might hurt the sales value of 1804 dollars and that is merely a point of view. You and I may say what we please as long as it is factual.

I look forward to your talk in Chicago. I will be teaching in Colorado Springs and in New York this summer for a few days.

Keep the pot boiling.

May 17, 1887

To Kenneth Bessett
From Eric S. Newman

On May 17, 1887, Mrs. Karstedt of Concord
and Elmina requested a few lines of review
of Dan's new book on Roberts, etc. She
also asked you and I told her that we
wrote the Foreword together and therefore
should write any review together.

I used what we had written and added
a few words. I hope it meets with your
approval. It was as follows:

Like the fantastic 1844 dollar,
Dan has written a fantastic book -
a rich panorama of history - an
admirable and entertaining piece of work.

Kenneth E. Bessett
Eric S. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63115

To: Chris Karstadt
Bowers & Merena

From: Eric P. Newman

Date: May 20, 1999

Re: Book review request

Thank you for asking me to give you a few sentences of review of Dave's newest production.

You pointed out my participation in writing the Foreword. Ken and I did this together. If you need a few more kind words I feel we should do this together also. It might guild the lily too extensively if we each wrote a separate comment when we have worked together on the subject for 40 years. Ken is away for a week and I want to get his reaction.

Please feel free to suggest a reuse of something we wrote in the Foreword, if you wish.

cc: Ken Bressett



818 North Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279
719/632-2646
FAX 719/634-4085
July 9, 1991

Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105


Dear Eric:

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that your article, "Earliest Illustration of an Unknown 1804 U.S. Dollar," which appeared in the October 1990 issue of The Numismatist, has been selected by a panel of judges to receive First Place in the ANA's annual Wayte and Olga Raymond Memorial Literary Award competition.

Official presentation of the award will be made during the ANA's 100th Anniversary Convention in Chicago, Illinois, at the Awards Presentation, Friday, August 16, at 3 p.m. in the Rosemont/O'Hare Exposition Center, East Ballroom 20 and 21. If your plans for the summer do not include attending the convention, or if you cannot be present for the ceremony, you may name someone to accept the award for you, or your award can be mailed to you following the close of the convention. Please advise us of your intentions.

Congratulations, Eric! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,


Barbara Gregory
Editor/Publisher
THE NUMISMATIST

cc: John Jay Ford Jr.



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

September 7, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your note of August 27th. I will make the corrections and additions as mentioned. I believe I dropped you a note on this before. Since then I have dropped a note to Pete Smith to see if he would like to take a look at the manuscript.

Someone mentioned to me—it might have been Ken Bressett—that you were on your way to the far side of the world again. Remember that you are going to live another 50 years, so don't use up all of the places at once!

Best wishes,


Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm



Subj: **Re: First Printing of Fantastic 1804 Dollar**
Date: 08/06/2001 12:39:42 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Eric,

Glad you're back safely. I hope the trip to Europe was great for both you and Evelyn. Sorry I can't go with you to the ANA this year. I really enjoyed our trip to Philadelphia together. Atlanta should be interesting for you.

Thank you for your reply about the first printing of "The Fantanctic 1804 Dollar." The census would be useless without knowing your holdings. As one of the fortunate friends to whom you gave a copy, I am very grateful.

Can you give me an exact citation for the 1959 article on the Saudi Arabian gold disks and their forgeries referred to in that interesting letter which you in part photocopied for me?

All the best, and thanks again for the information about the book.

Peter

At 12:29 PM 8/6/01 -0400, you wrote:

>Peter: As to your inquiry as to the above ----- In the EPNNES library I have
>one copy and I think I have only one duplicate. I have given away a couple of
>copies. All of my copies were sent to me by Kenneth E. Bressett. I was
>certainly glad the 1962 announcement by Spink avoided making a monumental
>error. How lucky can I be? Eric the Saved

Subj:	Re: The Fantastic 1804 Dollar
Date:	08/31/2001 3:00:56 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	[REDACTED]
To:	[REDACTED]

Eric,

Dick Johnson sent me a very interesting account that Ken Bressett though I should check out with you. Dick was at the 1962 ANA in Detroit and states that he was with Ken when a shipment of 16 bound copies of the first printing of the book arrived. Dick offered to drop a copy off in St. Louis, and arranged for you to meet him at the airport - Dick was flying home to Kansas City. Dick sent me a photocopy of the leaf which Ken and you signed as follows:

"To D. Wayne Johnson -

One of 16 copies of a very fantastic book

Ken Bressett

August 16, 1962

To D. Wayne Johnson

This book is proof that in spite of hard long research a group of logical conclusions on one phase of the subject can be completely in error. These horrendous mistakes will be corrected when the book is issued. This edition should be a classic for error collectors.

Eric P. Newman

St. Louis, Aug. 17, 1962

I received this book from Ken this morning at the American Numismatic Association convention in Detroit.

I flew to St. Louis to have Eric sign it before returning home.

D. Wayne Johnson

Kansas City Aug. 17, 1962"

Ken has no memory of having any bound copies in Detroit. I wonder if you recall this? Dick also has an early copy of the issued version inscribed by Ken

"To Dick Johnson

You may notice a few changes

between this and the first edition. I hope you enjoy the book as much as we enjoyed working on it. The outcome was truly fantastic

Ken Bressett

September 28, 1962"

The copy of the first printing which you gave me is signed by Ken in September 1962 and states that it is a bound set of proof sheets.

Finally, do I remember correctly that you told me that Evelyn thought of the title "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar"?

All the best. Next Wednesday I am off to Japan for eight days giving two invited lectures at scientific meetings.

Peter

PS: When I return I will write up the interesting results of this survey of the first issue, or, more properly, the unissued version of the book. I think it will make a readable note for theAsylum and E-sylum.

Subj:	Re: The Fantastic 1804 Dollar
Date:	08/31/2001 4:42:43 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	
To:	

Peter: Buried in my 1804 dollar file I might have the unissued proof sheets with my corrections written in for the issued first edition. Those may be bound or not bound. We can look for them if that is worthwhile. As to the bound items I have no recollection of what happened in Detroit or what or where I might have written in Dick Johnson's book but I would have cooperated with Dick in any way I could because he initiated my interest in collecting numismatic books when he was a student at Washington University. The language describing my embarrassment by virtue of almost making a major error is clearly mine. I wanted to make the corrections as fast as possible and I remember that I made over 50 changes. The advertising was already out and I did not want to lose our printing press position. Fortunately the changes were easily made and the published version came out within weeks. As to Evelyn she said our original title was too dull and needed impact so she suggested the word "fantastic" and we immediately adopted it, none of us realizing until much later what a great pun it was because the 1804 dollar was a fantasy. That is enough for now. Eric

Subj:	Classifying counterfeit British half pence
Date:	09/28/2001 9:17:56 PM Central Daylight Time
From:	
To:	

Dan : I have read your 9/27/01 Email comment in which you ask for methods of classification of counterfeit British halfpence. I have also read the Weston response and your reply. I am writing this to you only but have no objection to your disclosure of any part of it. I am only interested in the project being accomplished in a sound manner and do not have time to do much more than make suggestions from time to time.

This is a very difficult project because there are so many pieces which have unreadable dates, letters and other parts due to weakness in die preparation or in striking or casting as well as wear. Assuming that there will be cooperation from researchers and collections the characteristics and measurements will have to be uniformly prepared. That virtually means beginning all over again. Batty produced a masterpiece for himself which is of little classification value today. The elements to be observed and measured must be pointed out and reviewed carefully. I think the project might be limited to counterfeit George II and George III British and Irish halfpence and farthings. As to the British style the American minted pieces are rather well known and described already but should be blended into the study. Evasion pieces were never really in circulation in America and are a separate category although evasion listings may take in some of the pieces in the group to be studied such as those dated 1776 etc. What I believe should be studied is the distance between the three stops on the obverse which should be taken from the center point of the stops and this produces three separate measurements. I used this in classifying varieties of Virginia halfpence and it is very frustrating. The twig on the Britannia reverse may have some measurable elements or the leaf count or the lettering a leaf points to. Perhaps the length of the staff parts or what part of the date the staff points to. Is the size of the shield measurable or its angular position. The weight and die position of front and back are not worth much because all of the same variety will be different. Relative die position is of no help as to castings made from either genuine or counterfeit pieces and those struck from dies often have substantial differences. Charles Smith and Phil Mossman worked on this matter extensively and must have many suggestions for you. The work I like most is the discovery of 18th and 19th century comments on them and laws relating to them. I hope I have been slightly helpful. Please feel free to ask me anything you think will be helpful to the cause. I have a rather large collection of them as you may know but that has little to do with my research enthusiasm which began over 50 years ago. Keep up your wonderful writing. Thrive. Eric

John M. Kleeberg
Page Two

This is a portion
of a copy of a
letter dated 3/29/02
from Q David Bonis
to John M. Kleeberg

Probably the best thing to do to lay to rest any questions would be to examine ingots that are of *known* and *unquestioned* authenticity, such as *S.S. Central America* ingots and also the pieces in the National Numismatic Collection that descended from the Mint Cabinet (and gathered by Eckfeldt and Dubois in the late 1840s and early 1850s), make notes as to trace metals, fineness, accuracy of the stamped information on them, and so on, and then compare them objectively with other ingots.

I have never had any interest in making a fake numismatic item into a good one, or saying anything other than the truth. You probably know this already from my very detailed descriptions of the 1804 silver dollar, in which for this controversial coin I certainly "called a spade a spade," and left nothing to the imagination. Similarly, with ingots I have no vested interest except for accuracy.

However, as an outside observer I thought that Ted Buttrey's methodology and way of going about it was so far off the mark that I was moved to protest. My protest was not accompanied by my own elemental examinations of the items in question, but simply by the lack of scientific methodology he employed.

Also, if you do decide to engage in a scientific pursuit and to do elemental analysis, I do believe it would be good form to copy others involved in the scenario so that they can respond appropriately and, if the facts merited, cause a change in whatever you have to say. I state this very objectively now, as I do not know what you plan to do. I am just addressing the "method."

In my opinion a truly superb scientific researcher in the matter of California gold ingots is Bob Evans, associated with the *Central America* project, and was no connection at all to any of the ingots you are investigating. Bob is very familiar with metallic analysis, assaying, and many other technicalities.

EPN is unaware that
QDB has ever published
the false and misleading
statements and affidavits
of US mint officials about
the 1804 dollar 6/4/02

See similar
comments on
page 2 of
4/15/02 letter
QDB to JMK.

QDB to SMK 4/15/02

*this is a portion of a copy
of a letter from QDB as above.*

John M. Kleeberg
Page Two

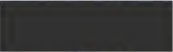
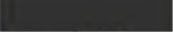
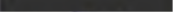
Certain of the Clifford items were obtained from or through John Jay Ford, Jr., and I do not believe any secret has ever been made of this. The cataloguing was done by Dr. George J. Fuld, drawing upon notes furnished by John Ford and other sources. At the time, 1982, I was a resident of New Hampshire (as I had been since 1980), and my involvement was to scan some of the final cataloguing. I did not have a chance to attend the sale, nor did I have a chance to personally examine the ingots.

The thrust of my comment to you is that in all instances the authenticity or lack thereof regarding a specimen will sooner or later come to the surface, no matter who owned it, how much has been said about it, or whatever. Over the years I have always "told it like it is" when offering coins for sale, and when I had appropriate knowledge to back up what I have had to say. You probably have a copy of my book on the 1804 dollar and Edmund Roberts, and I don't believe there is a single thing left unsaid regarding the origin of the 1804 dollar. If not, one is yours for the asking! I realize that long ago it was popular to "cover up" or to ignore certain findings about the 1804, but I have never done this. Similarly, in the area of patterns I have called certain items restrikes, numismatic delicacies, or whatever.

If I were to ever embark on a detailed study of gold ingots I would examine each one, make elemental analyses of them, and do everything else to learn what I considered to be the truth.

I believe that Mr. Buttrey simply sought to cast a wide net on an entire class of ingots, particularly those that have been discovered since 1950, without specifically researching in a scientific manner the items he condemned. Certain of the items, if researched, might yield the possibility of questionable authenticity, or, on the other hand, they might be proved genuine. However, in order to come to either conclusion for a specific item on a valid basis, proper methodology should be involved.

*similar
see comments on page 2 of
3/29/02 letter about 1804 dollar.*

Subj: **The Fantastic 1804 Dollar**
Date: 7/22/2003 6:34:26 PM Central Standard Time
From: 
To: 
CC: 
Sent from the Internet ([Details](#))

Dear Eric,

Yesterday my copy of your book arrived and I had a very pleasant day reading! I know you related to me how your wife was involved in the book title.....BUT, it should be the FANTASTIC BOOK about the Fantastic 1804 Dollar!

I am very impressed, and humbled, by your manuscript. The attention to detail is fabulous as is your constant running analysis of such details. You have given me some insights for my own work such that I must go back and review some things for what they may yield. Your use of the coin diagnostics and the integration with historical fact is very good. It is that process that I have used and referred to it in my presentation in Atlanta 2 years ago as "Archeological Numismatism". As you have shown it reveals FACTS at the expense fiction. Deductions can be drawn.

Needless to say, I must begin rereading the book as it is so full of information that it will take more than one reading to digest and percolate through my brain.

I do need to thank you though for not only have you given me hours of pleasure reading, but you have provoked new thought too. I was unaware of most of what you relate and surprised to see a familiar list of "characters". Haseltine, Idler, Scott, Mason, and Randall. All names I am familiar with from researching the Confederacy and metallic coinage. It seems only Lovett and Maris are missing from this play.

I know many may might suggest the fate of coincidence in history is always present. I take a more jaundiced view. (I am told you were an attorney so perhaps you might appreciate this more than most. I am not an attorney, though I am certified and have been an Arbitrator for 14 years, Associate of the Bar and all.) From a book of legal quotes, attribution of which I am unsure, I am reminded that "Coincidence is nothing more than a lame excuse for the intellectually lazy!" I have read and heard of Haseltine's somewhat jaded character, now I understand why and more importantly I am convinced that his involvement with Lovett needs to be researched more deeply.

Diagnostically more than ever I feel the need to see your Lovett Cent.....if you are unable to have it photographed then I need to make the trip to St. Louis for I must take you up on your offer to review your library on Confederate coinage. Who knows what little gem of information might be in there that would permit me to conclude on a vein of thought.

Take care, just wanted to let you know HOW MUCH I ENJOY YOUR BOOK! I will keep you posted on things as they might develop.

Sincerely,
George Corell

Subj: **Re: Nov 17 2005 Auction**
Date: 10/28/2005 5:30:21 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Eric,

A description follows. Alas, this catalogue is not in the present sale. Things are fine here. I trust all is well with you too. Missed you at San Francisco but heard you were on another exciting trip.

Best,

George

Weyl, Adolph. verzeichniss einer bedeutenden sammlung von münzen und medaillen von amerika, australien, asien und afrika, sowie einer stattlichen reihe proklamations-münzen von spanien. Berlin: 46ster Auktions-Katalog, 13ten Oktober 1884 und folgende Tage. (2), 50 pages, 2355 lots, 1 fine Lichtdruck illustration.

On Thursday, October 27, 2005, at 05:50 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

- > Dear George:
- > There was a 19th century German auction which had an image of the 1804
- > dollar on its cover or prominently displayed in it. Do you recall what
- > auctioneer it was and is it among the many catalogs included in your
- > sale? Could it have been a Weyl? You store these curious facts in
- > your noodle and please have a mind search for this item and let me
- > know.
- > My best. Eric

Privacy Policy: <http://pages.ebay.com/help/policies/privacy-policy.html>
Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 11/02/2005 3:15:14 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Eric: The King of Siam story has generated a lot of interest in the press. Those fantastic 1804 dollars have taken on a life of their own that never seems to end. I had fun acting as 'consultant' to dealer Steve Contursi when he purchased the set yesterday for \$8.5 million. Working with you on the book in 1961-62 was a highlight of my life that I will always treasure. And it is nice to know that 40 years later the rest of the world still appreciates the pioneer detective work that we did.

Best to you ---Ken

At 11:48 AM 10/31/2005 -0500, you wrote:

Ken:
I presume you know that you are mentioned in the New York Times on Monday Oct. 31, 2005, page A16.
Eric

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
[REDACTED]